

NOTE: A biography of Ambassador Pickering was attached to the press release.

### **Nomination of Jim King To Be Director of the Office of Personnel Management**

*January 26, 1993*

President Clinton today announced that he intends to nominate Jim King as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"Jim King will bring invaluable expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the Office of Personnel Management," said President Clinton.

Mr. King currently serves as chief of staff for U.S. Senator John Kerry. He previously served as senior vice president for government and community affairs at Northeastern University and Special Assistant to the President in the Office of Presidential Personnel during the Carter administration. Other experience includes chairman of the board of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; associate vice president, State and community affairs, at Harvard University; and Chairman of the Board and member of the National Transportation and Safety Board.

The Office of Personnel Management administers a merit system for Federal employment that includes recruiting, examining, training, and promoting people on the basis of their knowledge and skills, regardless of race, religion, sex, political influence, or other nonmerit factors. "I am deeply honored to accept this challenging role of ensuring that the Federal Government has the best, brightest, and most diversified work force we possibly can," said King. The Office's role is to ensure that the Federal Government provides an array of personnel services to applicants and employees.

Mr. King received his bachelor of arts at the American International College and is a fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Institute of Politics.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan**

*January 28, 1993*

**Q.** Mr. President, what's the principle you're fighting for in sticking with your plan to ban gays in the military? What's the principle that you believe that makes you want to stick with that?

**The President.** I came here to talk about the economy today with Mr. Greenspan. If he wants to express his opinion on that subject, I'll be glad to hear it. *[Laughter]* Most people with whom I talk, except you folks, never discuss that. We have other things we're trying to deal with.

**Q.** Sir, there was good news about the economy—*[inaudible]*

**The President.** I think that there's a lot of response to the efforts we're making now, but there's also a lot of troubling news about lost jobs. And we've got a lot of work to do, a lot of work to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks Honoring the School Principal of the Year and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 28, 1993*

**The President.** This is Janie R. Hill Hatton from Milwaukee, and she is the School Principal of the Year. You can tell she's from Wisconsin because Senator Kohl is here, but I have to tell you she also grew up in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas. We grew up in the same town. She's younger than I am. *[Laughter]*

That's her husband, Isaac, who also comes from Arkansas. And these other three gentlemen are with the National Association of School Principals.

**Mrs. Hatton.** And MetLife.

**The President.** And MetLife which sponsors this award. She gave me two paperweights for my wife and daughter, and now you're going to give me something, right?

**Mrs. Hatton.** Right. This is a hat for you to jog in, as well as, when the days are cold, the long jogging pants, "Tech has style." And the mornings when it's kind of warm, you can wear the short ones that says "Tech, Milwaukee." This is the one that we're most proud of because '93 Tech and when you have said Milwaukee Tech, you've said it all. And we invite you to Tech at all times, any time. We're building a referendum issue February 16. We want you to think thumbs up because that style is really good. So, wear it with pride. And Tech is an important—

**The President.** I think it sounds good, don't you? That's great.

**Mrs. Hatton.** Thank you so much, Mr. President.

**The President.** I'm proud of you.

**Mrs. Hatton.** I'm proud of you. Great things happen to great people.

**The President.** Thank you.

#### **Meeting With Members of Congress**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you building incentives to help the economy and working with Congress? Are you getting momentum having all these meetings with the Hill, with Chairman Greenspan?

**The President.** Well, I think so. You know, we've got a lot more meetings ahead. I'm going to have a huge number of meetings, I hope, next week with Members. I needed this first week just to kind of get our feet on the ground here and get organized and get ready. But I have held a lot of meetings with Congress, and I'll do many more next week. I'll do as many as I can leading up to the February 17 address to the joint session. And after that I'll do as many more as I can.

#### **Gays in the Military**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you confident that you'll ever get the ban on gays in the military lifted?

**The President.** Well, we're working on the resolution in the Senate, as you know. And I've been working mostly on economic issues today, so I just heard from my staff. But they seem to think we're pretty close to—

**Q.** Are you satisfied with 6 months down the road?

**The President.** I'm satisfied with what I hope the resolution will be. You'll have to come back in when there's final language there.

I think the Joint Chiefs should have 6 months to deal with the practical issues involved. This is not the issues. This is not free of difficulty. There are certain factual problems involved.

But the principle—let me answer the question Mark [Mark Halperin, ABC News] asked me this morning about the principle. The principle behind this for me is that Americans who are willing to conform to the requirements of conduct—military services, in my judgment, should be able to serve in the military and that people should be disqualified from serving in the military based on something they do, not based on who they are. That is the elemental principle.

There is actually an enormous amount of agreement on this. The Joint Chiefs agree, for example, that we should not anymore ask people about their sexual orientation when they enlist. And I believe that any sort of improper conduct should result in severance. The narrow issue on which there is disagreement is whether people should be able to say that they're homosexual without being—and do nothing else—without being severed. But there are a whole lot of very complicated practical questions that flow from that very narrow issue. And that's what I want to have 6 months to give them a chance to work on. So, I hope we can.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Close-Up Foundation**

*January 29, 1993*

#### **Gays in the Military**

**Q.** Mr. President, when are you going to announce your policy on gays in the military? What time today?

**The President.** Well, we're waiting for an analysis of the court decision now and how it affects what we would have to do anyway. So, that sort of—we were here, as you know, last night with Senator Nunn, and I thought it was quite close to an agreement that would give the military what I think ought to be done without anybody agreeing to change their position now—give them a chance to look into what the practical problems are. But this court decision may change that, and we are looking at it. And I will probably have something to say later today.

**Q.** But do you—decision because—get through now?

**The President.** Well, we talked about it a little last night, but I wanted to—the staff stayed here quite late. I thought they ought to get a chance to get a little sleep and then think through it. So, as you know, there is virtual agreement on everything but one issue anyway. So, you are trying to figure out how this court case fits, that and whether it changes anything for either side.

So, we'll talk about it this morning and then try to resolve it soon.

**Q.** Are you concerned, Mr. President, that this controversy this week has given the American people the wrong idea of what your priorities are?

**The President.** Yes, I do. Of course, I didn't bring it up; people in the Senate did. I just tried—I have not, frankly, spent very much time on it compared to the time I'm spending on the economy, which is what I was elected to do. And we've been working on that hard. So, I'm just going to keep doing what I was elected to do and try to stick up for what I believe and see if we can work through this.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not

available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Teleconference Remarks on the Family and Medical Leave Bill**

*January 29, 1993*

**The Vice President.** Ladies and gentlemen, can you hear me? This is Vice President Al Gore. I am going to introduce the President to you in just a moment. I want to start by thanking all of you for joining us on this conference call. It's especially important for your point of view to be heard by the Congress and by the Nation because this family and medical leave act will be acted upon next week by the Congress.

What's different this time, of course, is we have in President Bill Clinton a President who is in favor of it and who is prepared to sign it into law. So with the Congress and the President working together in behalf of the American people, we feel pretty good about the chances that this will be enacted. But the main reason for enacting it is you, and we're looking forward to hearing from you.

Before introducing the President, I want to mention some people in the Congress who have worked long and hard on this: Chairman Bill Ford in the House of Representatives; and Pat Williams from Montana; Marge Roukema, a Republican from New Jersey, who's been a real leader on this issue; Bill Clay from Missouri; and Pat Schroeder from Colorado. And then on the Senate side: Chris Dodd, who has fought for this tirelessly, along with Chairman Ted Kennedy; and Kit Bond, a Republican from Missouri; Dan Coats, a Republican from Indiana, both of whom have been very helpful in pushing this idea forward.

But again, what it's all about is you and the experiences that you have had. And with that, I want to turn it over to President Bill Clinton.

**The President.** Thank you very much, Al. And hello, ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank you for agreeing to join us on this telephone call today and through this telephone